

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SEOUL 00329 170557Z

13
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
----- 063511
P 170459Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7939

S E C R E T SEOUL 0329

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY AND CINCPAC
ROUTINE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, KS
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ROK THIRD COUNTRY PROCUREMENT OF MAJOR
MILITARY ITEMS

REF: STATE 7320

1. DURING CALL ON PRIMIN JAN 16 WITH UNDER SECRETARY
MAW, LENGTHY DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON SUBJECT OF ROK
THIRD COUNTRY PROCUREMENT. CONSIDERATIONS OUTLINED
IN REFTEL WERE RAISED AND OBVIOUSLY FULLY UNDERSTOOD.
HOWEVER, PRIMIN REMAINED NONCOMMITTAL.

2. WITH REGARD TO PROPOSED EXOCET PROCUREMENT, WE
EMPHASIZED LIKELIHOOD OF CONGRESSIONAL CRITICISM,
PARTICULARLY AT THIS TIME WHEN SOME MEMBERS OF CONGRESS
ARE SEEKING TO REDUCE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE APPROPRIATIONS.
THE PRIMIN RESPONDED THAT THE ROKG APPRECIATED THE
POTENTIAL OF THE PROPOSED PURCHASE FOR ADVERSE
CONGRESSIONAL REACTION. NEVERTHELESS, HIS GOVERNMENT
FELT IT NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN THE DETERRENT CAPACITY
ESSENTIAL TO PRESERVE PEACE AND BELIEVES THIS OBJECTIVE
CAN BE ACHIEVED ONLY BY DEMONSTRATING TO THE NORTH THAT
ANY PROVOCATION ON ITS PART WOULD BE CERTAIN TO MEET
RETALIATION. THE ROKG HAD BEEN TOLD ORIGINALLY THAT
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SEOUL 00329 170557Z

HARPOON WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL 1978 AND,

THEREFORE, HAD PURSUED FRENCH OFFER OF EXOCET DELIVERY IN 1975. ROKG CONSIDERED THAT RISK OF CONTINUED NAVAL INFERIORITY WAS GREATER THAN RISK OF CONGRESSIONAL CRITICISM. THE PRIMIN REITERATED THAT EXOCET WAS INTENDED ONLY TO FILL TEMPORARY GAP UNTIL HARPOON COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE, THAT ROKG WANTED TO MAINTAIN COMPATIBILITY OF WEAPONS SYSTEMS WITH USG, AND THAT ROKG DID NOT SEEK NEW POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP WITH FRANCE.

3. UNDERSEC MAW REPLIED THAT USG WANTS TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE AND HOPED A SOLUTION COULD BE FOUND WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT ROKG HAD TO MAKE ITS OWN DECISION, HE REQUESTED THAT THE CEDISION BE DEFERRED UNTOL HE COULD OBTAIN MORE PRECISE INFORMATION ABOUT HARPOON AVAILABILITY DATES WHEN HE RETURNS TO WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK. I ADDED THAT WE WOULD TRY TO BE MORE HELPFUL AND SEE IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR A HARPOON DELIVERY SCHEDULE TO BE DEVELOPED THAT WOULD COINCIDE WITH THE AVAILABILITY DATES FOR THE NEW PSMMS.

4. THE PRIMIN'S ONLY EXPRESS COMMITMENT WAS THAT WHEN THE ONGOING EXOCET TESTS WERE COMPLETED AND THE RESULTS WERE AVAILABLE, HE WOULD LET ME KNOW. HE EXPLAINED THAT THERE MIGHT BE PROBLEMS BECAUSE OF EXOCET'S WEIGHT IN RELATION TO SMALL CRAFT ON WHICH IT WOULD BE MOUNTED.

5. REGARDING SUBMARINES, THE PRIMIN POINTED OUT THAT THE U.S. HAD NO EQUIVALENT SMALL SUBMARINE AND THE ROKG THEREFORE FOUND IT NECESSARY TO SEEK SUCH VESSELS FROM THE BRITISH. THE SUBMARINES WOULD NOT BECOME AVAILABLE UNTIL MORE THAN THREE YEARS HAD PASSED AND IT WAS NECESSARY FOR THE ROKG TO PLAN ITS DEFENSE NEEDS THAT FAR IN ADVANCE. IT WAS AWARE OF CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC CRITICISM IN THE UNITED STATES OF THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF U.S. FORCE IN KOREA AND U.S. ASSISTANCE TO KOREA. IT WAS NECESSARY FOR KOREA TO BE PREPARED TO ASSUME THE BURDENS OF ITS OWN DEFENSE TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, RATHER THAN ASSUME IT COULD CONTINUE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 SEOUL 00329 170557Z

TO RELY UPON A U.S. PRESENCE. WE SUGGESTED DISCUSSIONS AT THE MILITARY LEVEL ON THE REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMARINES.

6. COMMENT: THIS IS THE STRONGEST EXPLICIT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT I HAVE RECEIVED THAT ROKG IS PROCEEDING WITH ITS DEFENSE PLANS ON ASSUMPTION THAT IT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RELY UPON CONTINUED U.S. PRESENCE. IN THIS LIGHT, I BELIEVE OUR FURTHER EFFORTS REGARDING SUBMARINES WOULD BEST BE LEFT

PRIMARILY TO DISCUSSIONS IN MILITARY CHANNELS OF ROK NEED FOR
THESE VESSELS. WITH RESPECT TO MISSILES, PRIMIN'S OBVIOUS
SENSITIVITY TO POLITICAL PROBLEMS, INCLUDING
CONGRESSIONAL, REINFORCES IMPORTANCE OF TRYING TO BE RESPONSIVE
TO PSMM DELIVERY SCHEDULE. I BELIEVE PRELIMINARY DECISION
TO PURCHASE EXOCET MIGHT BE REVERSED, PERHAPS WITH AN
EXPLANATION THAT TEST RESULTS WERE UNSATISFACTORY,
IF WE CAN OFFER HARPOON DELIVERY IN TIME FRAME COINCIDING
WITH PSMM AVAILABILITY. PSMM DELIVERY SCHEDULE HAS BEEN
FORWARDED TO DEPARTMENT BY SEPTTEL (SEOUL 0313). UNDER
SECRETARY MAW WILL REVIEW THIS PROBLEM WHEN HE RETURNS
TO WASHINGTON.
SNEIDER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDEES.

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic DecapTIONing: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PROCUREMENT, MILITARY EQUIPMENT, MISSILES, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JAN 1975
DecapTION Date: 28 MAY 2004
DecapTION Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: WorrelSW
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SEOUL00329
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750018-0317
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750142/aaaabklz.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 7320
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <18 NOV 2003 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE ROK THIRD COUNTRY PROCUREMENT OF MAJOR MILITARY ITEMS
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, KS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006